

***In the Claims***

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1       1. [Currently amended] A method for processing invoices  
2       by having the individual employee of an enterprise creating  
3       an original order for goods and services for end-use by said  
4       individual employee determine that a resulting invoice  
5       should be paid or not, comprising the steps of:

6           receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog  
7       system from said individual employee a requisition for  
8       goods or services from a vendor for end-use by said  
9       individual employee;

10          said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing  
11       from said requisition a purchase order;

12          said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
13       submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an  
14       EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said  
15       vendor;

16       receiving from a first vendor an invoice for said goods

17       or services as an electronic invoice for processing by  
18       said enterprise accounting and catalog system;

19       receiving from a second vendor an invoice for goods or  
20       services as a paper invoice for processing to said  
21       enterprise accounting and catalog system by accounts  
22       payable personnel other than said individual employee;

23       preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for  
24       said goods or services ordered by said individual  
25       employee;

26       storing said invoice image in an image store;

27       keying said image to invoice data;

28       said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
29       communicating by electronic mail a plurality of  
30       confirmation requests to said individual employee  
31       creating original orders for goods or services for end-  
32       use by said individual employee, each said request  
33       instructing said individual employee to log on to said  
34       enterprise accounting and catalog system, including  
35       said invoice data and a link to said invoice image, and

36 specifying that each said invoice is subject  
37 selectively to negative confirmation and positive  
38 confirmation processing[ , ] ;

39 said negative confirmation processing for a first  
40 confirmation request including advising said individual  
41 employee via e-mail that said invoice is confirmed  
42 unless specifically not approved by said individual  
43 employee, and said positive confirmation processing for  
44 a second confirmation request including advising said  
45 individual employee that said invoice will be confirmed  
46 upon entry by said individual employee of approval;

47 providing at a user workstation a search interface in  
48 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said  
49 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to  
50 images of invoices that match said criteria be  
51 displayed at said user workstation; and

52 responsive to selection of a link by said individual,  
53 displaying said invoice image for approval by said  
54 individual creating said original order selectively by  
55 said negative confirmation and positive confirmation  
56 processing.

1       2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2       the step of:

3           preparing said invoice images by scanning paper  
4           invoices received from a vendor.

1       3. [Previously presented] The method of claim 2, further  
2       comprising the step of:

3           preparing other of said invoice images by converting  
4           electronic invoices received from a vendor into an  
5           image file representation having the look of a paper  
6           invoice.

1       4. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, said  
2       invoice confirmation request advising said individual  
3       employee to process said confirmation as negative  
4       confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1       5. [Previously presented] The method of claim 4, said  
2       invoice confirmation request further advising said  
3       individual employee to log on to a front-end requisition and

4 catalog server to view invoices for confirmation.

1       6. [Previously presented] The method of claim 5, further  
2 comprising the step responsive to said individual employee  
3 logging on to said front-end server of displaying a list of  
4 invoices awaiting confirmation and responsive to user  
5 selection of a selected invoice, presenting images of  
6 invoices corresponding to links selected by said individual  
7 employee.

1       7. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising the steps of presenting to said individual  
3 employee an interface for selecting images of invoices  
4 matching a selection criteria.

8. [Canceled]

1       9. [Previously presented] A system for processing  
2 invoices by having the individual employee creating an  
3 original order for goods or services for end use by said  
4 individual determine that a resulting invoice should be paid  
5 or not, comprising:

6           a front-end requisition and catalog system;

7           a back-end procurement services system;

8           a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

9           an image system and store for storing said scanned  
10          images and serving them to said workstation keyed to  
11          said invoice;

12          a workstation selectively receiving user entry from  
13          said individual employee of a requisition request for  
14          goods or services for end-use by said individual  
15          employee, receiving confirmation requests, and viewing  
16          images of invoices from said image system and store;  
17          said confirmation request instructing said individual  
18          employee to log on to said back-end system to view and  
19          approve a first invoice by negative and a second  
20          invoice by positive confirmation processing, said  
21          negative confirmation processing including advising  
22          said individual employee via e-mail that said invoice  
23          is confirmed unless specifically not approved by said  
24          individual employee, and said positive confirmation  
25          processing including advising said individual employee  
26          that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said

27 individual employee of approval;

28 said front-end system selectively receiving said  
29 requisition requests from said workstation, forwarding  
30 said requisition requests to said back-end system, and  
31 receiving confirmation requests from said back-end  
32 system for forwarding to said workstation; and

33 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase  
34 orders against said requisitions to a vendor at least  
35 one invoice as electronic invoice and another invoice  
36 as a paper purchase order, receiving and processing  
37 invoices electronic invoices directly from said vendor  
38 and paper invoices as received and processed by  
39 accounts payable personnel other than said individual  
40 employee, keying invoice images to invoice information,  
41 and processing confirmation requests to said front-end  
42 system for communication to said workstation for  
43 approval by said individual employee creating said  
44 original order for goods or services for end use by  
45 said individual employee.

1 10. [Previously presented] A program storage device

2 readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of  
3 instructions executable by a machine to perform a method for  
4 processing invoices by having the individual employee  
5 creating an original order as an end user of a commodity or  
6 service determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or  
7 not, said method comprising:

8 receiving a plurality of invoices;

9 preparing for each said invoice an invoice image;

10 storing said invoice image in an image store;

11 keying said image to invoice data;

12 communicating first and second invoice confirmation  
13 requests to said individual employee, each said request  
14 including said invoice data for respective invoice  
15 confirmation requests and respective links to invoice  
16 images;

17 responsive to requester selection of a first link,  
18 displaying a corresponding invoice image to said  
19 individual employee for approval by said individual

20       employee creating said original order according to a  
21       specified confirmation process; said individual  
22       employee processing a first invoice by a negative  
23       confirmation process including advising said individual  
24       employee via e-mail that said first invoice is  
25       confirmed unless specifically not approved by said  
26       individual employee, and said individual employee  
27       processing a second invoice by a positive confirmation  
28       process including advising said individual employee  
29       that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said  
30       individual employee of approval.

1       11. [Currently amended] A computer program product for  
2       processing invoices by having the individual employee  
3       creating an original order for goods and services for end-  
4       use by said individual employee determine that a resulting  
5       invoice should be paid or not according to steps comprising:

6       receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog  
7       system from one or more of said individual employees a  
8       plurality of requisitions for goods or services from a  
9       vendor for end use by said individual employees;

10           said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing  
11           from said requisitions a plurality of purchase orders;

12           said enterprise accounting and catalog system  
13           submitting each said purchase order selectively as EDI  
14           message and a paper purchasing document a vendor;

15           receiving from a first vendor an invoice for said goods  
16           or services as an electronic invoice, said electronic  
17           invoice being received for processing by said  
18           enterprise accounting and catalog system;

19           receiving from a second vendor an invoice for said  
20           goods or serves as a paper invoice, said paper invoice  
21           being received for processing to said enterprise  
22           accounting and catalog system by accounts payable  
23           personnel other than said individual employee;

24           preparing invoice images of a plurality of invoices  
25           received for said goods or services ordered by said  
26           individual employees;

27           storing said invoice ~~invoice~~ images in an image store;

28               keying each said image to corresponding invoice data;

29               said enterprise accounting and catalog system

30               communicating by electronic mail an invoice

31               confirmation request for each invoice image to said

32               individual employee, said request instructing said

33               individual employee to log on to said enterprise

34               accounting and catalog system, including said invoice

35               data and a link to said invoice image, and specifying

36               that said invoice is selectively subject to negative

37               confirmation and positive confirmation processing, a

38               first invoice processed by said negative confirmation

39               processing including advising said individual employee

40               via e-mail that said first invoice is confirmed unless

41               specifically not approved by said individual employee,

42               and a second invoice processed by said positive

43               confirmation processing including advising said

44               individual employee that said invoice will be confirmed

45               upon entry by said individual employee of approval;

46               providing at a user workstation a search interface in

47               said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said

48               individual employee to enter criteria and have links to

49               images of invoices that match said criteria be

50                   displayed at said user workstation; and

51                   responsive to selection of a link by said individual  
52                   employee, displaying said invoice image for approval by  
53                   said individual employee creating said original order  
54                   for goods or services for end use by said individual  
55                   employee selectively by said negative confirmation and  
56                   positive confirmation processing.

1       12. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2                   claim 10, said method further comprising:

3                   preparing said invoice images by scanning paper  
4                   invoices received from a vendor.

1       13. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2                   claim 12, said method further comprising:

3                   preparing other of said invoice images by converting  
4                   electronic invoices received from a vendor into an  
5                   image file representation having the look of a paper  
6                   invoice.

1       14. [Previously presented]. The program storage device of

2 claim 10, said invoice confirmation request advising said  
3 individual employee to process said confirmation as negative  
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 15. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 14, said invoice confirmation request further advising  
3 said individual employee to log on to a front- end  
4 requisition and catalog server to view invoices for  
5 confirmation.

1 16. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 15, said method further comprising responsive to said  
3 individual employee logging on to said front-end server of  
4 displaying a list of invoices awaiting confirmation and  
5 responsive to selection of a selected invoice by said  
6 individual employee, presenting images of invoices  
7 corresponding to links selected by said individual employee.

1 17. [Previously presented] The program storage device of  
2 claim 10, said method further comprising presenting to said  
3 individual employee an interface for selecting images of  
4 invoices matching a selection criteria.